

LEADERSHIP PREPARATORY ACADEMY

6400 WOODROW RD. ● LITHONIA, GA 30038 ● 404.665.3103
P. O. BOX 835 ● LITHONIA, GEORGIA ● 30058-0835
WWW.LEADERSHIPPREPARATORYACADEMY.ORG



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Dear Parents,

As we continue the 2018-2019 school year and move forward into spring, I would like to remind you of the importance of safe online practices.

For some students, digital life is inseparable from real life. Social media has become the forum where students build friendships, voice their opinion on issues big and small, as well as the go-to place for entertainment. Students are spending more time on their phones, computers and tablet devices than ever before.

We ask that you continue to exercise caution and keep tabs on your student's online behaviors and habits. It is also important that you keep up on the latest trends. A good start is teaching your children good digital citizenship. The following tips can assist you in a discussion with your child(ren):

- **Notify an adult if you receive a mean or strange message.** Unwanted messages are often signs your device is not safe. Advise your child(ren) to notify you, their teacher, or another adult if they receive such a message, or have a bad feeling about any unwanted communication.
- **Never give out personal information.** This includes your home address, phone number, or even school name. If it seems like you may be sharing too much information, there's a good chance you are.
- **Never send pictures to strangers.** More often than not, people, "organizations" or "agencies" seeking pictures of students are not what they appear to be. A good tip is to adjust your student's privacy settings to assure safe web surfing.
- **Keep your passwords private.** Make sure your student knows to only share their password with you or another trusted family member.
- **Don't download anything without permission.** Technology has grown, and so have the means to steal identities, install viruses, and obtain information for ill purposes.

The length of time children spend online can also have adverse effects. In worst-case scenarios, a child's sense of loneliness, isolation, or depression can be made worse. Ask your child what sort of content they are looking at or watching when using a device. Is it homework? Is it social media? What do they discuss on social media? Use this as a jumping-off point to promote positive browsing habits.

The health and safety of our students is among our top priorities Leadership Preparatory Academy. We are doing everything possible to keep students safe online while on campus, and ask that you do the same when a child is at home. For more cyber safety information visit:

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/toolkit/family-engagement-resources>

Sincerely,

Tonya M. Williams

Dr. Tonya M. Williams, Chief Academic Officer and Chief Learning Officer